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**Introduced by Senator Beall**

March 5, 2015

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 26—Relative to Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 26, as introduced, Beall. Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month.

This measure would recognize that pancreatic cancer statistics call for aggressive measures now to develop early detection and treatment tools before the incidence dramatically increases, and would proclaim November 2015 as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month in California.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, In 2015, an estimated 48,960 people will be  
2 diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and 40,560 people will die from  
3 the disease in the United States; and  
4 WHEREAS, Pancreatic cancer is one of the deadliest cancers,  
5 is the fourth leading cause of cancer death in the United States,  
6 and is the only major cancer with a five-year relative survival rate  
7 in the single digits at just 7 percent; and  
8 WHEREAS, Symptoms of pancreatic cancer usually first present  
9 themselves in its late stage, and 72 percent of pancreatic cancer  
10 patients die within the first year of their diagnosis, while 93 percent  
11 of pancreatic cancer patients die within the first five years; and  
12 WHEREAS, Approximately 4,300 deaths from pancreatic cancer  
13 will occur in California in 2015; and  
14 WHEREAS, The incidence and death rate for pancreatic cancer  
15 are increasing, pancreatic cancer is anticipated to move from the  
16 fourth to the second leading cause of cancer death in the United

1 States by 2020, and the number of deaths from the disease will  
2 increase 2.4 fold by 2030; and

3 WHEREAS, The federal government invests significantly less  
4 money in pancreatic cancer research than it does in research of  
5 any other leading deadly cancer, constituting only approximately  
6 2 percent of the National Cancer Institute's research funding, a  
7 figure far too low given the severity of the disease, its mortality  
8 rate, and how little is known about how to arrest it; and

9 WHEREAS, The Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act of 2012,  
10 formerly the Pancreatic Cancer Research and Education Act,  
11 requires that the National Cancer Institute develop a scientific  
12 framework for combating pancreatic cancer and other recalcitrant  
13 cancers; and

14 WHEREAS, The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network is a national  
15 organization serving the pancreatic cancer community in California,  
16 where it is headquartered, and nationwide through a comprehensive  
17 approach, which includes public policy, research funding, patient  
18 services, and public awareness and education related to developing  
19 effective treatments and a cure for pancreatic cancer; and

20 WHEREAS, The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network and its  
21 affiliates in California support those patients and families currently  
22 battling pancreatic cancer, as well as the friends and families of  
23 those who have lost their lives to the disease, and are committed  
24 to nothing less than a cure; and

25 WHEREAS, The good health and well-being of the residents  
26 of California are enhanced as a direct result of increased awareness  
27 about pancreatic cancer and research into early detection, causes,  
28 and effective treatments; now, therefore, be it

29 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
30 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby recognizes that  
31 pancreatic cancer statistics call for aggressive measures now to  
32 develop early detection and treatment tools before the incidence  
33 dramatically increases, in light of the fact that National Cancer  
34 Institute funding is falling dangerously behind; and be it further

35 *Resolved*, That the Legislature hereby proclaims November  
36 2015 as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month in California and  
37 urges all California citizens to wage hope to end pancreatic cancer;  
38 and be it further.

- 1     *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 2     this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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